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Art Unit: 1744

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4B. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 4A-4C, replaces the previously submitted replacement sheet including FIGS. 4A-4C. In FIG. 4B, previously omitted element 31 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****APR 30 2007****A. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP2002177895, issued to Masahiko ("Masahiko") and rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,199,238, issued to Huang ("Huang").

As currently amended, independent claim 1 is further limited to a device that includes a non-threaded guide joined with the first holding plate, the non-threaded guide being configured to allow the first holding plate to continuously slide to a position proximate the cleaning cartridge. Support for this amendment is found in originally submitted FIGS. 4A and 4C and in paragraph 14 as amended herein – "In one embodiment, top holding plate 20 is joined with a non-threaded guide 31. Non-threaded guide 31 is configured to allow top holding plate 20 to continuously slide to a position proximate cleaning cartridge 40."

In contrast, as illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 5 of Masahiko, Masahiko relies on a dial and *threaded* screw to lower and raise the probe pins. In addition, the use of a linear shaft 42 for laterally sliding the probe pins in Masahiko from a first position where they contact a cleaning solution to a second position (as indicated in dashes in FIG. 2 of Masahiko) where they are rinsed is incongruous to a design incorporating non-threaded guide 31. Accordingly, Masahiko fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 as currently amended.

The Huang device does not include a non-threaded guide that is configured to allow a top holding plate to *continuously slide* to a position proximate a cleaning cartridge and therefore fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 as currently amended.

Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. For at least the same reasons, the balance of the claims, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the Masahiko or Baker references in view of an obvious design choice to use polyvinylchloride. The Examiner

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also rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Masahiko in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,240,339, issued to DeForest et al.

Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. For at least the same reasons, claims 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

C. Summary

In the present Office Action, claims 1-5, 8, and 9 were examined. Claims 1-5, 8, and 9 are rejected. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 1-5, 8, and 9 are presented for consideration.

Based on the remarks above, Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipates or makes obvious the invention as presently claimed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the application and the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.

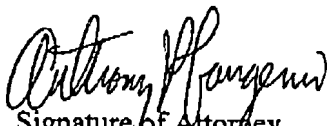
If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please apply any credits or charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Fulton et al.

Date: April 30, 2007

Reg. No. 42,565



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